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ACHIEVEMENTS AND ERRORS IN RUMANIAN EDUCATION

EDUCATION IN RUMANIA -- Vienna, Nachrichten aus der Rumanischen Volksrepublik, 1 Aug 52

The education of college-trained specialists for various professions demands the improvement of existing educational facilities and the creation of new upper schools. New technical schools have been established which link higher education with production and practical life. The present number of teachers has grown 92.7 percent since 1948-49, and 307.3 percent since 1938-39. The number of students has increased 123.6 percent since 1938-39.

Several institutions now have evening and correspondence courses for professional work, including special courses in practical engineering. Thus, outstanding students have an opportunity to specialize and increase their productivity.

The number of scholarships in 1952 was 142.3 percent higher than in 1948-49. The Republic and Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej scholarships provide an added stimulus for outstanding students. Besides providing meals at the student kitchen, these scholarships give the student 50 lei per month for personal expenses and free lodging in students' homes; if the student does not wish to live in these homes, he receives an additional 50 lei for rent. In addition to these benefits, the student receives 820 lei for clothing allowance.

In the 1951-52 school year, the number of student homes rose 75.6 percent over the 1948-49 figure and the number of students accommodated rose to 146.8 percent. During the same period, the student kitchens increased 38.4 percent, and the number of students eating at these kitchens rose 98.5 percent.

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During the 1951-52 school year, the number of school children whose parents are factory and farm workers rose to 62.4 percent over the number in 1949-50. The number of students who were sons of workers rose 148.63 percent during the same period.

At present, all national minorities in Rumania have the same rights and privileges in schools as Rumanian children. The number of minority language schools is increasing. As of August 1952, there were 3,541 schools of all grades for national minorities, attended by 319,269 children. For example, 2,579 schools hold classes in Hungarian, 542 schools in German, 149 in Ukrainian, 39 in Russian, 66 in Tatar, 65 in Serbian, 87 in Slovak, and 9 in Croatian.

Gypsies in Bihor Raion, Ciuca Panua colony in Pradea, and Satu-Lung in Stalin Raion were virtually illiterate in the past. Now they have their own schools, and the rate of illiteracy is steadily dropping. Thousands of Pioneers and students belonging to national minorities spend their holidays with Rumanian students at sea or mountain resorts and enjoy the same sports, cinema, and other forms of entertainment.

IMPROVEMENT OF WORK IN SCHOOLS -- Bucharest, Viata Capitalei, 12 Nov 52

Some 900 teachers and school principals of Bucharest Regiune attended special summer courses in 1952, to learn how to improve the curriculum of schools. Moreover, through the medium of self-taxation, people's councils and teachers have succeeded in establishing household units in every boarding school. In Branesti, Crevedia, Draganesti, and Lebliu raions, the funds from this taxation were used for new school buildings and completion of buildings previously started.

However, not all raions and communes prepared themselves equally well for the new school year. In Turnu-Magurele, for instance, out of ten school units that had been proposed for construction and installation, not one has been started. In Bratulesti, Caciulati Raion, the people's council did not even succeed in obtaining the necessary funds for repairing the schoolhouse. The people's council of Oltenita stated that it was not even able to prepare the premises of the dormitories at the teachers' school.

Another problem that was not solved is the supplying of schools with manuals. Thus, at Peris school, there were very few manuals for the Rumanian-language course in the fifth grade, or alphabet manuals for the first grade. An Oltenita school had too many copies of Bazele Darwinismului (Bases of Darwinism). In Zimnicea Raion, only 60 natural history manuals were supplied for the 517 pupils of the sixth grade, and only 150 mathematics manuals were available for the 460 pupils of the fifth grade. In Giurgiu Raion, the cooperatives did not get their supplies on time or in sufficient quantities.

Raion teachers held meetings between 10 and 12 September 1952 to set up working plans for the first two quarters of the school year. However, some educational personnel do not give full attention to working plans and show no interest in the children's studies.

Trandafir Petrescu of Racari school, Ecaterina Neicu of Domnesti school, and many other teachers underestimate the importance of a teacher's work. They come to class without prepared lectures, give superficial explanations, and do not control systematically the students' learning ability.

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Ioana Atanasiu
Ioana Atanasiu of the Calarasi Pedagogical School gives superficial lectures and teaches the Rumanian language mechanically, without drawing a parallel between teaching and present-day life.

In view of the lack of efficiency, it is very urgent that teachers, professors, school principals, and inspectors take all necessary measures to force the teaching staff into a more effective cooperation. Teachers and professors have the obligation to acquire Marxist-Leninist science and to rid themselves of old concepts which are reactionary, idealistic, and cosmopolitan.

Furthermore, teachers should enlist poor and average peasants in the fight against kulaks, so that peasants may become a powerful link in the chain of the working people. Teachers have the duty of weaving events of the day into their educational pattern and of supporting all ideas of the party.

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